IN THE CLAIMS

1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 31 wherein ~~the step of adding data~~ storing data in a connection database comprises ~~the steps of~~:

recording a connection requestor identifier to the connection database; and

providing a connection requestor rank to the connection requestor identifier based on an associated application layer outcome ~~of the application layer connection component~~.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 31 wherein ~~the step of~~ updating the throttle filter with ~~information~~data from the connection database comprises:

_____-periodically replacing throttle filter data with a preselected number of connection requestor identifiers ranked least desirable in the connection database.

5-9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 31 wherein the connection request~~s~~ ~~is~~ are ~~an~~ HTTP request~~s~~, the application layer component is an HTTP connection component and the transport layer component is ~~a~~ TCP connection component.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 31 wherein the connection request~~s~~ ~~is~~ are ~~an~~ HTTPS request~~s~~, the application layer component is an HTTPS connection component and the transport layer component is ~~a~~ TCP connection component.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein ~~the server connection is~~ each received connection request is for an HTTP server connection, the application layer connection component is an HTTP connection component, and the transport layer

connection component is a TCP connection component.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein ~~the server connection is~~ each received connection request is for an HTTPS server connection, the application layer connection component is an HTTPS connection component, and the transport layer connection component is a TCP connection component.

15 - 17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein the connection database is a table ~~in which~~ having entries, each entry ~~has~~ having an IP address of a connection requestor and an associated rank based on an outcome of a connection attempted in response to a connection request from the connection requestor.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein each entry of the table further includes a port number of the connection requestor.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein each entry of the table further includes a virtual routing forwarding table ID of the connection requestor.

21.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 18 wherein each entry in the table includes an entry age, the ~~filter~~ computerized device configured to delete entries having an entry age that exceeds an age threshold.

22.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 33 wherein the throttle filter ~~as indicated by data from the database comprise at least one of~~ comprises:
        a list of IP addresses of connection requestors to be blocked;
        port numbers of connection requestors to be blocked; ~~and~~ or
        a virtual routing forwarding table IDs of connection requestors to be blocked.

23 - 30.   (Canceled)

31.   (New) A method comprising:

receiving connection requests from connection requestors, each received connection request including an application layer connection component, a transport layer connection component, and requestor information that includes an identifier of a connection requestor;

dropping a connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is found in a throttle filter, the throttle filter being a dynamic filter including a list of identifiers of requestors to be blocked from establishing connections;

proceeding with the application layer component of the connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is not found in the throttle filter;

storing, in a connection database, data about received connection requests including data about application layer outcomes associated with received connection requests that fail to complete a connection; and

periodically updating the throttle filter with data from the connection database.

32.   (New) The method of claim 31 comprising:

dropping a connection request when a predetermined limit of created connections has been exceeded or a predetermined rate of connection requests has been exceeded.

33.   (New) A system comprising:

a network interface to receive connection requests from connection requestors, each received connection request including an application layer connection component, a transport layer connection component, and requestor information that includes an identifier of a connection requestor; and

a computerized device to:

drop a connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is found in a throttle filter, the throttle filter being a dynamic filter including a list of identifiers of requestors to be blocked from establishing connections;

proceed with the application layer component of the connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is not found in the throttle filter;

store, in a connection database, data about received connection requests including data about application layer outcomes associated with received connection requests that fail to complete a connection; and

periodically update the throttle filter with data from the connection database.

34.   (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the computerized device drops a connection request when a predetermined limit of created connections has been exceeded or a predetermined rate of connection requests has been exceeded.

35.   (New) A computer program product having a computer-readable medium including computer program logic encoded thereon that, when performed on a computer system directs the computer system to perform the method of:

receiving connection requests from connection requestors, each received connection request including an application layer connection component, a transport layer connection component, and requestor information that includes an identifier of a connection requestor;

dropping a connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is found in a throttle filter, the throttle filter being a dynamic filter including a list of identifiers of requestors to be blocked from establishing connections;

proceeding with the application layer component of the connection request when the identifier of the connection requestor is not found in the throttle filter;

storing, in a connection database, data about received connection requests including data about application layer outcomes associated with received connection requests that fail to complete a connection; and

periodically updating the throttle filter with data from the connection database.